

# RollPlay



**GM NOTEBOOK**  
**ISSUE THIRTY-FIVE**



# 1

## **Hello Patrons!**

This month all I really had to prep was notes for the first session of Far Verona, Season Two. I've provided those notes in their entirety, but what the zine can't contain is all the moments in the last four weeks I've been watching sci-fi movies, listening to weird space music and brainstorming about robots! I can't capture, unfortunately, the many calls I've had with my players to discuss their characters and the zine definitely doesn't have room for all the raw excitement we all have for the show. I hope you'll tune in for the premiere, and look forward to full character sheets from each of our new PCs in a future issue. I've dug through the archives and found a bunch of Swan Song notes as well, those that lead closer and closer to the finale! I hope you'll get a kick out of revisiting these memories, I know I did.

Thank you so much for your support, and welcome to Issue 35 of the GM's Notebook.

*Adam Koebel*  
*RollPlay GM*



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FAR VERONA:

SEASON TWO,  
EPISODE ONE  
PREP NOTES



**AIRDATE:** July 6th, 2019 @ 10am Pacific

**EPISODE LENGTH:**

3 hours (15 minutes warmup, 5 minute break midroll)  
2, 1 hour + 20 minute acts

**EPISODE ONE GOALS:**

- × Introduce the situation
- × Introduce the characters
  - × three basic things, give them a moment to say what their concept is in action
  - × not deeper motivational stuff, we'll get to that in spot-light episodes
- × Hit 'em with a bang
- × End on tension
- × Leave 'em wanting more



# CHARACT



## DJWHEAT

 [djWHEAT](#)  
 [djWHEAT](#)

### DJWHEAT AS JASNAH SOLARI

A synth warrior, formerly of the Crux Military machine, now on the run, trying to protect her allies from her former masters.

**beat** - use violence to protect someone



## VANA

 [HavanaRama](#)  
 [vana](#)

### VANA AS HALEY SKY

A synthetic former child star, PRISM entertainment product gone rogue, escaping a life of content servitude.

**beat** - act like a child to deceive someone, show that she is really an adult



# TEARS



## MARK HULMES

 [HavanaRama](#)  
 [vana](#)

### MALK HUMMUS AS COUNTESS ERIDANUS VASKA AUTUMN

A human noble turned treasonous rebel, synth sympathizer and healing psychic.

**beat** - use psychic powers to heal someone, show humanity

**???** - what's the deal with your anchor NPC? she'll be around but not a core focus until your first spotlight episode



## ELSPETH EASTMAN

 [ElspethEastman](#)  
 [elspeth](#)

### ELSPETH AS ???

A former vista servant-bot who made drinks and is now part of the synthetic underground resistance.

**beat** - show her outsider nature (neither synth nor human), ask why she is here.



### STAKES QUESTIONS

- × What do they have in common?
- × Where do they disagree?
- × Are they fighting or merely trying to survive?
- × What is their end goal as a group?
- × Who threatens them?

**WHO:** the PCs and someone who threatens their survival

**WHAT:** an action-oriented start

**WHEN:** *now* (Month 2, 3201, Zeroth Month of the Reign of the House of Pyxis)

**WHY:** you are synths (reinforce the violence inherent in the system)

**HOW:** some Hunter team made you and your location (??? for next session)



# START WITH A BANG:

## **LOCATION: The Burned Lands, Sector 4, Tanez, Yakiyah, Tsatsos System**

- × the burned fields are slowly being reclaimed by Imperial assets, huge Agrobots move through, clearing out all the dead terrain in their path, along with rubble, ruins and other places where folks like the PCs might be hiding out
- × in advance of the Agrobots, a Crux team of H unters is searching the rubble and ruins for dissidents, seeking former terrorists in hiding and synths who might be using the area for safety
- × Hunter Team Kodiak Zwei, under the command of Kreigsherr Ibanez Yancy, is here to flush out and kill a specific group of synths, tipped off to their whereabouts by an informant

## **NPCS:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| × Generic crux goons (minions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Tough</li><li>B. Follow Orders</li><li>C. Hate Synths</li></ul>  | × Sergeant Arnehan, head of ops (rival) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Scottish</li><li>B. Smart</li><li>C. Spoiling for a Fight</li></ul>   |
| × Synthetics Biologist Triangulum Parish Dorotea Zoe, Knight of the Order of the Brackets, Junior Grade on Loan to the House of Crux (rival) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. "Thirty eight, simulated"<br/>"How many combat drops?"<br/>"Two, including this one."</li><li>B. Exacting mind</li><li>C. Not exactly a religious person</li></ul> | × Sergeant Arnehan, head of ops (rival) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. Scottish</li><li>B. Smart</li><li>C. Spoiling for a Fight</li></ul>   |
| × Autumn's "sister (rival)   | × A handful of others (minion) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. cowering masses</li><li>B. unable to fight, but willing to try</li><li>C. helpless except for the PCs help</li></ul> |

# WHAT'S HAPPENING:

This area of Sector 4 is being reclaimed in waves, in the fore, House Crux teams are capturing whatever dissidents remain, acting on final orders - capture them now or they will get turned into biomass. Behind them, Eridanus Firemen, serf workers with flame projector units are killing any plant or animal life that remains under safety protocols that

they might have been tampered with by local terrorists. In the rear, former ACRE agrobots, now under service of the Imperial Food Service, churn whatever is left, turning the burnt land into safe soil for future planting.

**PROSPERITY IS BROUGHT TO YOU IN  
ACRES BY ERIDANUS**

# OPENING SCENE:

*We begin with a wide shot of a burning field. In all directions, the sky is choked with black smoke from the fires below. In the distance, through the haze, massive building-sized hovering machines slowly approach, long tendrils of steel drifting from their undersides churn the soil and clear rubble.*

*Ahead of the machines, grey-clad forms move, wielding flame throwers, torching away any and all life, leaving dead plants and animals in their wake, to be consumed by the hovering combines.*

*Interior scene, a safehouse - once a farming combine where dozens of workers used to sleep, eat and live - now houses a handful of helpless fugitives. Synthetic lifeforms on the run from the cold hand of the Empire.*

*The door bursts open. There is a flash, and a cloud of smoke fills the room. In silence, a group of House Crux Hunters burst in, weapons already alight with laser fire - we see a synth attempt to raise a heavy wrench against them and he is cut down. The rest scatter.*

*What do you?*

# THE SITUATION

## TIMER

- × there are Crux Hunters here now
- × there will be Firemen here soon
- × there will be agrobots here eventually

you cannot stay, where do you go?

the Crux shuttle that arrived here (The HCS Delphine IV) is parked in the middle of the complex, guarded by some goons and her pilot.

the complex itself is a half-dozen buildings abandoned years ago by ACRE

the surrounding territory is a wasteland of dead fields, dying animals and in the distance, Tanez city.

## FLAVOUR:

color palette - rust, black, faded sepia, grey with bursts of orange and white flame

UPC graffiti everywhere, everyone who isn't a PC or a friend is wearing a helmet with a face mask - inhuman humans

nothing is clean, everything is either loud (gunfire, shouting, flame projectors) or deadly quiet (dust clouds, the hum of the approaching agrobots)

low visibility - smoke, dust storms, etc.

a futurey dustbowl, everything dead and dry - bones and ruin

|| FOOTNOTE: Look at Primetime Adventures ||

|| HOMEWORK: ID Numbers for the Synths, weapons and armor for the PCs ||

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## Swan Song NOTES

SWAN SONG: Ep 40 (February 18th/3201)

- start the episode with a GNN news report about Terror Attack on Vinaya speculating an attack by New Prophet rebels, maybe?

Main points of the episode:

- ⑥ meeting with a vestigium of the Luminary cognition
- ① dealing with the remnants of the Fulminate Blade, who owns, salvage (will have to work out the ship details)
- ② the outcry / backlash of everyone that was heard to be wounded in the accident
  - the PCs will meet with Mr. Soren Vandermeer, an Adjuster of the Exchange, who will question each PC
- ③ Several personally wounded ppl come themselves
- ④ Carswell + the Hoveydans investigate
- ⑤ Someone insane comes to worship the Swan Song / crew



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# Swan Song NOTES

## SWAN SONG RECAP

### NPCs

- Randy
  - Captain Ossuary
  - Ms Fate
  - Mr. Falcon
  - Konstantin
  - Dr. Singh
  - Pzjan
  - Luminary 22)
  - Mr. Titan
  - Connor Wu
  - Kalaya Bia + Mustafa Lee
  - Nika Starlight
  - Vincent Pollard
  - The Old Man
  - The Warmind
  - General Painter
- (TITANFALL)
- Howard  
Pi
- Lephantone

### Places

- The Pizza Party
- The Swan Song
- Andoni
- Majid
- Onintza
- Anaximander
- Asa
- Subhadra
- Strophios
- Cabral
- Hoveyda

### Species

- Humans
- V'ad (desert bugs)
- Wa' (on sigrid)
- AI
- Shindelians

Fish Switzerland

- blue fever
- ancient shindelians
- AI
- the scream / MES



6.

# Swan Song NOTES

## SWAN SONG

Issues @ hand:

- the ship is fucked (215'000 credits + 104x5 days)
- Pi and Luminary are going to have a conversation
- the Mubarizun have taken notice of the unusual events
- As has a strange Richardson researcher
- the eye continues to "malfunction"

15K (2d) for hp

(50,000)  
10% of hull x 4 systems

200'000

(Anna Xu ~ GNN)

firewatch

[MARCH 8/3201]

Mr. Patil } Sunbeam  
Ms. Kapoor }

## NPCs

- Sergeant Jessica Al-Malik } the Mubarizun on Vinaya. They intend to investigate
- Corporal Khalil Shadid } the PCs to see what's up

- 1) Possession of stolen Caliphate property the fulminate blade salvages @
- 2) Creation of an illegal psytech weapon 1% (35,000) but has:
- 2a) Discharge of " (plasma beam + survey scanners)
- 2b) Manslaughter x 26 counts

(replace  
thrower)

blind/deaf furry caterpillar  
communicate w/ vibration

- Gren Fifth-Such-Named of Clanship Filynn + laser
- A gnodens (furry, no-eyed, tailed) ship-speaker who knows Rajani
- suggested to help with the ship (Ambassador)

One of the ships nearby was damaged in the chaos, owned by Forrest Patel, a junior delivery executive of the Striker Snackfood Conglomerate. He comes after the swan song for \$ (optional)

An old friend of Higgs' (what name does he know you by?) comes to Higgs with a business proposal: steal Kirz Ngazai's racing ship before the North Sector qualifiers. He has access but needs a con-man/crew to do the job. As2'll pay \$1,000,000 for it, easy. Split 60/40...

(his name is Ezekiel Kyo)

\*dolphin

"Religious Attack"

Piani's sister's name is Quiz Tyree

The Intellect needs to borrow a Pi "branch"

\*GM turn this weekend? After West Marches?



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# Swan Song NOTES

SWAN SONG Ep. 42

④ Call from Sigrid to Erik ...

this one northern Thane is getting too big for his britches, ...

• the Mubazim come looking for the party. Erik particularly.

• Intro the mission, fix the Swan

Computer = hide pi (16)

March 10/31/01

(Pi comes back. He tells Higgs that the conversation was "enlightening")

▶ the Luminary are pushing Higgs out, slowly. He's too unstable.

(A call to Luminary for help.)

▶ brumbo Tungus

[Rajani knows a guy (Moses Jones) who managed Kira Nganzai (a hyperboat racer) and he can get them access to her + the Gallant Breeze  
she has a buyer who'll take it for £1,000,000]

(60/30/10 = split) ▶ A faction of the Syndicate (the callow ox clan) wants to make weapons, Nanites, etc.

Serena La Valet, girlfriend to Rajani (A VI) "mr. beefsteak"

[Rajani arranges theft of crystals.

= Crystals

- Pi's little robots

① ship

[Alamo City] on Asa

↳ (El Gato Caliente)

② brief

Spaceport

③ pi sleep

↳ ~~St. Margaret~~ Interplanetary Airport  
Cole Trickle

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# Swan Song NOTES

Swan Song Ep. 43

it's march 16<sup>th</sup>, 3201 +1

- ① Show New Prophet Union Propaganda (oh! that's a complication ~ a Union Picketing the race-track threatening riots)
- ② Showdown with El Gato Caliente
- ③ Meet Kira Nganzai
- ④ Mr. Beefcake and his team protecting the ship (the Cash on Delivery)
- ⑤ "Wilbur Higgins you goat-fucking space trash..." welcome back Mr. Pollard  
↳ he's here making a Fear and Loathing style gonzo documentary called "The Great Blue Hype" and is here with his Onintzan lawyer, Dr. Loco.
- ⑥ Sex, drugs + hyperboats. Get messy.

~~⑦ WHEN THEY TRY TO LEAVE: Attack on the spaceport~~

\* while they're away, Rajani sells the psi-crystals to the militant arm of the Madari (creating psychic assassins in the faction turn)

New Prophet Union leader: Hezekiah Cornwall-White

Madari Smuggler: Becky Paluwasha

\* Erik gets a call: a council of jorks has been called because the North Territories have been out of touch ~ Jarl Astrid cannot be reached. His father is sending some probe data, maybe you could have a look?

↳ Oslor (shipwright) Carl  
mom: Solveig Frøtheim  
cousin: Thorbjørn Frøtheim



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# Swan Song

## NOTES

episode = notes

① the warehouse is protected by Mr. Beefsteak + 5 Pfotenhauer troops  
(2 level 4 warrior + 5 level 1s)

② Ngenzai lives there. (built by Mute City Engineering)

③ A mass protest outside the hotel draws intense attention

④ Vince Pollard at the hotel (the Double-Platinum Super Grand High Hat)

Lord Lara McCrary = televangelist now  
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Sort of Patron Saint of the  
Asian NP movement

2 Fast 2 Alpharius

6 cater - 4

kirz - 6

4x

erik - 8

LATER --- George

Kira knows about Alpharius.

(Beefsteak Pancakes Action)

→ SWAN SONG, Alpharius

